

What is claimed is:

1. A method to specify a multimedia transition, comprising:
identifying a plurality of multimedia assets that define a transition, wherein at least one of the plurality of multimedia assets is user-supplied;
identifying a source multimedia object;
identifying a target multimedia object;
compositing the multimedia assets with the source and target multimedia objects.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of identifying multimedia assets comprise identifying one or more of an asset movie, an asset matte movie and a background matte movie.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the user-supplied multimedia assets comprise user-generated multimedia assets.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the user-supplied multimedia assets comprise video clips.
5. The method of claim 3, wherein the user-supplied multimedia assets comprise user-generated matte video clips.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of compositing comprises determining a transition time associated with the transition.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein the act of determining a transition time comprises querying the user for a transition time.
8. The method of claim 5, wherein the act of determining a transition time comprises interrogating a user-supplied multimedia asset to determine the transition time.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein the act of determining a transition time comprises:
 - identifying a key asset from among the plurality of multimedia assets; and
 - interrogating metadata associated with the key asset to identify a default transition time.
10. The method of claim 9, further comprising modifying the default transition time to a value selected by a user.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of identifying a source multimedia object comprises identifying a first location in a first multimedia presentation.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the act of identifying a target multimedia object comprises identifying a second location in the first multimedia presentation.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein the act of identifying a target multimedia object comprises identifying a first location in a second multimedia presentation.
14. A program storage device encoding machine readable instructions for causing a programmable control device to:
 - identify a plurality of multimedia assets that define a transition, wherein at least one of the plurality of multimedia assets is user-supplied;
 - identify a source multimedia object;
 - identify a target multimedia object;
 - composite the multimedia assets with the source and target multimedia objects.
15. The program storage device of claim 14, wherein the instructions to identify multimedia assets comprise instructions to identify user-generated multimedia assets.
16. The program storage device of claim 14, wherein the instructions to identify multimedia assets comprise instructions to identify user-supplied multimedia assets comprise video clips.

17. The program storage device of claim 14, further comprising instructions to determine a transition time associated with the transition.

18. The program storage device of claim 17, wherein the instructions to determine a transition time comprise instructions to automatically determine a transition time from a user-supplied multimedia asset.

19. The program storage device of claim 14, wherein the instructions to identify a source multimedia object comprise instructions to identify a first location in a first multimedia presentation.

20. The program storage device of claim 19, wherein the instructions to identify a target multimedia object comprise instructions to identify a second location in the first multimedia presentation.

21. The program storage device of claim 19, wherein the instructions to identify a target multimedia object comprise instructions to identify a first location in a second multimedia presentation.

22. A method for generating a user defined transformation using a video editing application, the method comprising:

identifying a first movie that is independent of the video editing application;

identifying an x-asset key that is independent of the video editing application,

wherein the x-asset key comprises at least one second movie;

compositing a transformation by combining the first movie and the second movie in accordance with the x-asset key.

23. The method of claim 22,

wherein the at least one second movie comprises an asset movie and a third movie; and

wherein the act of compositing comprises blending the asset movie as a foreground and the first movie as a background in accordance with blending information in the third movie.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the third movie comprises a background matte movie, a scale map movie, a displacement map movie, a luminosity map movie, a zoom-x map movie or a zoom-y map movie.

25. The method of claim 23,
wherein the x-asset key further comprises at least a duration parameter; and
wherein the act of compositing comprises adjusting the lengths of the first
movie, the asset movie and the third movie to a duration specified by the duration
parameter.
26. A computer system for automatically generating a customized transition, the
system comprising:
a central processing unit (CPU);
a memory operatively coupled to the CPU;
a video editing application executing within the CPU and memory;
means for performing the method of claim 22 using the CPU and memory.
27. A machine readable medium comprising machine executable instructions capable
of performing the method of claim 22.

28. A method for generating a user defined transition using a video editing application, the method comprising:
- identifying first and second image frames that are independent of the video editing application;
 - identifying an x-asset key that is independent of the video editing application, wherein the x-asset key comprises at least one movie; and
 - compositing the first image frame, the second image frame and each frame of the movie in accordance with the x-asset key using the video editing application.
29. The method of claim 28 wherein the first image frame is the last frame of a first movie and the second image frame is the first frame of a second movie.
30. The method of claim 28,
- wherein the at least one movie comprises an asset movie including alpha channel information and a marker; and
 - wherein the act of compositing comprises:
 - blending the first image frame as a background and each frame of the asset movie as a foreground in accordance with the alpha channel information before the marker is reached, and
 - blending the second image as a background and each frame of the asset movie as a foreground in accordance with the alpha channel information after the marker.

31. The method of claim 28,
wherein the at least one movie comprises an asset movie, an asset matte movie
and a background matte movie; and
wherein the act of compositing comprises:

blending a portion of the first image frame as a background, the
corresponding portion in a frame of the asset movie as a
foreground in accordance with the corresponding alpha channel
information in the asset matte movie, when the corresponding
portion in the background matte movie is white, and
blending a portion in the second image frame as a background, the
corresponding portion in a frame of the asset movie as a
foreground in accordance with the corresponding alpha channel
information in the asset matte movie, when the corresponding
portion in the background matte movie is black.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the act of compositing further comprising:
adjusting the length in time and size in pixels of the asset matte movie to match
the asset movie if they are not the same; and
adjusting the length in time and size in pixels of the background matte movie to
match the asset movie if they are not the same.

33. The method of claim 32,
wherein the x-asset key further comprises at least a duration parameter; and
wherein the act of compositing further comprises adjusting the length in time of
the asset movie to match the duration specified by the duration parameter.
34. A computer system for automatically generating a customized transition, the
system comprising:
a central processing unit (CPU);
a memory operatively coupled to the CPU;
a video editing application executing within the CPU and memory; and
means for performing the method of claim 28 using the CPU and memory.
35. A machine readable medium comprising machine executable instructions capable
of performing the method of claim 28.